Drug Abuse among Youth

*153. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of the problem of drug abuse among the youth ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the schemes under implementation for the prevention of drug abuse; and

(d) what has been the achievements so far ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Welfare sponsored a multicentred study on student population in 1975-76 and a repeat study after a decade (1985-86) to assess the prevalence of drug abuse among university students. The 1975-76 study covered seven centres which included Bombay, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Madras and Varanasi. In the study of 1985-86 two more centres, namely, Banglore and Calcutta were added :—

(b) The majorfindings of these two studies are :—

(i) The prevalence of abuse of illicit drugs, especially alcohol, tobacco an painkillers was most common.

(ii) The 1985-86 study indicated that legally prohibited drug use was around 2%. This was in contrast to the finding of 1975-76 study which showed that use of such drugs was negligible.

(iii) Drug abuse was more common among boys than girls. Girls mainly used pain-killers and the use of illicit drugs among girls was practically negligible.

(iv) Drug abuse was more prevalent among students with urban background, especially those studying in Central, Public or convent schools, hailing from nuclear families and residents of college hostels or staying away from their families.

(v) Causes for drug abuse were mainly psychological such as satisfying curiosity, relieveing tension, and also peer presssure.

(c) and (d) A Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse is being implemented by this Ministry to provide financial assistance to voluntary organisations for running of Conselling, De-addiction and After Care Centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and also for creating awareness among the masses against drug abuse and alcoholism. Under this scheme 90% of the approved annual expenditure is provided by this Ministry and the remaining 10% is borne by the voluntary organisations themselves. Universities/ Institutes of Social Work/Institutes of Higher Learning are, however, provided 100% grant under the scheme. At present 152 Counselling, 104 Deaddiction and 15 After Care Centres are functioning. At these Centres 10 50 lakh addicts have been benefitted from April, 1986 to September, 1993.

Starvation Deaths in Orissa due to Drought

*154. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Kalahandi District, Orissa, is affected by severe drought and people are dying due to starvation every year ; and

(b) if so, what kind of assistance the Central Government is providing to the State to save the people from starvation deaths ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Some pockets of Kalahandi district in Orissa are frequently affected by drought conditions. But no report has been received from the State Government about any death due to starvation.

(b) Under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for which Central Government provides

financial assistance to the State Government such as Drought Prone Area Programme, Accelearated Rural Water Supply Programme, National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed Areas, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana Employment Assurance Scheme, etc. programmes are taken up in Kalahandi district which contribute to mitigate the adverse effects of drought conditions.

With the help of the Calamity Relief Fund which has a Central Share of 75% the State Government is enabled to undertake immediate relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought.

Use of Pesticides

*155. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers in Egypt, China, Malaysia, South Pacific Islands, Costa Rica, Brazil, Holland, Sweden and Texas have slashed use of pesticides and are harvesting greater yields than before ;

(b) whether Government propose to advise the Indain farmers to cut the use of pesticides by 50 per cent to save cost and increase production, as the use of pesticide is providing harmful ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) The adoption of Intergrated Pest Management approach has enabled the farmers to reduce the consumption of chemical pesticides in many countries.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise the use of chemical pesticides the Government is promoting intergrated Pest Management technology wherein it is advocated that chemical pesticides should be used as a last resort on the basis of economic threshold level of pests.

दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण को तोड़ना

*156. श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण को तोडने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण में अभियन्ता एसोसिएशन द्वारा चलाए जा रहे आन्दोलन की जानकारी है और यदि हां तो सरकार ने एसोसिएशन की मांगों पर विचार करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए हैं; और

(ग) क्या दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण में अभियन्ताओं को परेशान किया जा रहा है और क्या दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण का निर्धारण करने और इसे बड़े बिल्डरों को सौंपने की कोई योजना बनाई जा रही है और यदि हां तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्रीमती शीला कौल) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) इस समय दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण में अभियन्तासंघ कोइ आन्दोलन नहीं चला रहा है ।

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

Increase in Insurance Prrmia Rates for Crops

@*157. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are planning to double the insurance premia rates for all crops to reduce the heavy losses incurred by it in financing the settlement of farmers' claims; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b) The proposal to make Crop Insurance Scheme self-sustaining is under consideration. The details of the proposal have not yet been finalised.

@Previously starred Question 97, transferred from 1-3-1994.